

Message Text

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12

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /072 W

----- 104627

R 071101Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9633

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET ATTEMPTS TO COUNTER BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON SOVIET
JEWRY

1. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESS DEPARTMENT STAGED PRESS
CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6 AIMED AGAINST BRUSSELS CONFERENCE ON
SOVIET JEWRY. PRESS CONFERENCE, CHAIRED BY MFA PRESS SECTION
CHIEF SOFINSKIY, FEATURED SEVEN SOVIET JEWS WHO HAD GONE TO
ISRAEL AND SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO THE USSR. ACCORDING TO US
JOURNALISTS WHO WERE PRESENT, PRESS CONFERENCE WAS WELL-ATTENDED
AND RELATIVELY EFFECTIVE FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW. THE SOVIET
JEWS WHO SPOKE WERE POISED AND SEEMED SINCERE AS THEY DE-
SCRIBED VARIOUS HARDSHIPS THEY HAD ENCOUNTERED IN ISRAEL,
STRESSED HOW ALIEN THEY HAD FELT THERE, AND PRAISED SOVIET
POLICY TOWARD JEWS. THEIR BASIC PITCH WAS THAT SOVIET JEWS
NEEDED NO DEFENSE FROM ABROAD.

2. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SOME 150
LETTERS, APPARENTLY MOSTLY WRITTEN BY SOVIET JEWS, PROTESTING
THE BRUSSELS CONFERENCE. OTHER WESTERN EMBASSIES REPORT THEY ARE
ALSO IN RECEIPT OF NUMEROUS PROTESTS, WITH CANADIANS, BELGIANS
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AND FRENCH APPARENTLY IN LEAD. THEY ALSO CLAIM MANY LETTERS

IDENTICAL, AS OURS ARE NOT. IN ANY CASE, ORCHESTRATION NOW
TOPPED OFF BY PRESS CONFERENCE -- IS OBVIOUS.

STOESSEL

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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